

## **AWA Questionnaire for ECan Candidates**

Please **follow the format below** and write your answer to each question in no more than 50 words unless otherwise stated.

**Name: Lan Pham**

**Ward: Christchurch Central Ohoko Ward**

**Occupation/role in community: ECan Councillor and Founder Working Waters Trust (freshwater restoration and education not for profit)**

1. In what ways do you believe that ECan has succeeded in protecting and enhancing our natural environment? 50

The hard truth is that there are no 'success stories' with ECan. There are positive moves in biodiversity, water, climate which I'm proud to have been a part of, but nothing goes far enough in recognising the scale and urgency with which our entire resource management framework needs to change.

2. In what ways do you believe that Ecan has failed? 50

In my view, the almost decade-long loss of democracy, the state of Canterbury's drinking water, land use intensification, excessive over-allocation of water and failure to provide for both human and ecological health in our statutory role as managers of our natural resources constitutes plain and simple - regulatory failure.

3. What specific things do you intend to achieve if you are elected to Ecan? List your 3 main priorities. 49

- 'Democracy rebuild' to restore fully functional democratic processes where democracy has been eroded
- Urgent and comprehensive action in response to climate and ecological emergency
- Healthy freshwater ecosystems are recognised as our most precious resource and current exploitative management is transformed into fit-for-purpose planning and rules framework that prioritises environment.

4. How do you intend to achieve these priorities? List specifically the policies or rules you intend to change or implement (no more than 50 words per priority)

### **Democracy rebuild' to restore fully functional democratic processes where democracy has been eroded 50**

This fully independent review will ensure ECan is ready to face the future as fully accountable and transparent to its communities - which provides the fundamental basis of our mandate for action. Implementation of recommendations aims to provide confidence to citizens that ECan is geared to tackle major environmental challenges.

### **Urgent and comprehensive action in response to climate and ecological emergency 50**

Elevate climate change to ECan's overarching strategic priority; undertake citizen-led education and engagement programme that ensures ECan leads unprecedented change in reducing emissions and

increasing resilience (water, soil, biodiversity, coastal etc) alongside our community. Position ECan as a leader in climate action and use council's voice to push central government.

**Healthy freshwater ecosystems are recognised as our most precious resource and current exploitative management is transformed into fit-for-purpose planning and rules framework that prioritises environment. 50**

Rules and compliance overhaul to push boundaries in water management of water quality and quantity that provides for human and ecological health and builds climate disruption and adaptive planning into the framework. Changes will ensure environmental improvement that is ecologically meaningful by setting stronger rules and providing incentives for change.

5. Do you believe we need to reduce cow numbers on the Canterbury Plains, in order to regenerate our waterways and protect our drinking water supplies? 50

Yes! Intensive farming is one of the biggest contributors to environmental damage such as biodiversity loss, soil compaction, increased pathogens and contaminants. Prefer stringent leaching limits rather than capping cow numbers because a) it's something ECan can do, and b) it will ensure cows aren't replaced by another polluting land-use.

6. Would you commit to changing ECan's planning documents to prevent or substantially impede the taking of water from Christchurch's aquifers for export water bottling? 50

Yes, but would broaden the scope to all water takes (bar community drinking-water supply and stockwater under RMA). Canterbury is vastly, and recklessly, over-allocated. I worked hard over 3 years to achieve the capping of any further water takes in OTOP and Waimakariri as part of PC7. Just the beginning.

7. Please state (in no more than 75 words) what, in your background, your achievements or your world view) qualifies you to represent the people of Canterbury as an elected member of Ecan. 74

My world view and life experience (also based on evidence) that human health and wellbeing is intrinsically linked to the health of our environment and that love and care for others and our environment should be what ultimately guides society. My specialist knowledge and experience in freshwater ecology and habitat restoration of native fish has driven the elevation of biodiversity to ECan's highest priority, opposition to oil and gas exploration, climate emergency declaration etc.